

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

meat action suggests either a direct influence or a natural harmony of ideals. The latter explanation seems to correspond better to the Inconspicuous position of Masonry in the colony. Conditions in Indo-China, unlike those of France, have never been propitious for its development.

Colonials' criticism of the government is so often petulant and destructive that it is hard to ascertain their positive desiderata. Protection—that blanket term—is one of their strongest claims. This increased protection against physical insecurity, ranging from and inundations to a more general police protection of colonials' and property. They also want more legal guarantees. The French code has not replaced Annamite legislation in the sense of giving the same protection to those in power, and this is as true of Chinese bankrupts as it is of runaway coolies.

What the colonials really want is aid without interference. They would like the state to supply them with regular, cheap labour and not inquire into their disposal of it. They would also like tariff protection for colonial products, and direct aid to planters in trouble. They want a reduction of the tax burden, more long-term agricultural facilities, and an economical administration that would devote to a public works programme and to carrying out a *stable* policy on planters could count.

Most of the old Tonkinese colonials are disappearing, either by their labours or forced by discouragement to return to France. Life has been so difficult that few young men are coming forward to replace them. This decline in colonists preceded the depression, and be traced to deep-rooted causes. Failures might in many cases been avoided by agricultural experimental stations

conducted

persewetaace according to a systematic plan.

Instead of this one

try an experiment in coffee growing and then neglect It for

another scheme, such as planting cotton in arid land- Funds

at a time when an experiment was beginning to have value.

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